

The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

Vol 133, No. 5, May 2007

Condensed Contents

In Memoriam

- 1131** Norman Edward Shumway, MD (1923–2006)
D. A. Cooley

Editorials


- 1133** Five-year cognitive outcomes: Surgical effects or natural progression of vascular disease ▲
J. W. Hammon, Jr and D. A. Stump
- 1135** The vertical vein: To ligate or not to ligate ■
J. S. Tweddell

Cardiopulmonary Support and Physiology (CSP)

- 1137** Endothelin-1 accentuates the proatherosclerotic effects associated with C-reactive protein
D. Ramzy, V. Rao, L. C. Tumati, N. Xu, R. Sheshgiri, J. Jackman, D. H. Delgado, and H. J. Ross
- 1147** Cellular coating of the left ventricular assist device textured polyurethane membrane reduces adhesion of *Staphylococcus aureus*
T. Asai, M.-H. Lee, C. Arrecubieta, M. P. von Bayern, C. A. Cespedes, H. M. Baron, M. Cadeiras, T. Sakaguchi, C. C. Marboe, Y. Naka, M. C. Deng, and F. D. Lowy
- 1154** Hemodynamic effects of vacuum-assisted closure therapy in cardiac surgery: Assessment using magnetic resonance imaging
R. Petzina, M. Ugander, L. Gustafsson, H. Engblom, J. Sjögren, R. Hetzer, R. Ingemansson, H. Arheden, and M. Malmström
- 1163** Enhanced intimal thickening of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene grafts coated with fibrin or fibrin-releasing vascular endothelial growth factor in the pig carotid artery interposition model
B. H. Walpoth, P. Zammaretti, M. Cikiricioglu, E. Khabiri, M. K. Djebaili, J.-C. Pache, J.-C. Tille, Y. Aggoun, D. Morel, A. Kalangos, J. A. Hubbell, and A. H. Zisch

- 1171** Warm nondepolarizing adenosine and lidocaine cardioplegia: Continuous versus intermittent delivery
K. L. Sloots, J. Vinten-Johansen, and G. P. Dobson

General Thoracic Surgery (GTS)

- 1179** Induction chemoradiotherapy (carboplatin-taxane and concurrent 50-Gy radiation) for bulky cN2, N3 non-small cell lung cancer
H. Yokomise, M. Gotoh, T. Okamoto, Y. Yamamoto, S. Ishikawa, T. Nakashima, D. Masuya, D. Liu, and C. Huang
- 1186** Results of esophagectomy for esophageal cancer in elderly patients: Age has little influence on outcome and survival
A. Ruol, G. Portale, G. Zaninotto, M. Cagol, F. Cavallin, C. Castoro, V. C. Sileni, R. Alfieri, S. Rampado, and E. Ancona
- 1193** Synchronous multiple primary lung cancer: An increasing clinical occurrence requiring multidisciplinary management
 *D. Trousse, F. Barlesi, A. Loundou, A. M. Tasei, C. Doddoli, R. Giudicelli, P. Astoul, P. Fuentes, and P. Thomas*
- 1201** Surgical aspects of thoracoscopy and efficacy of right thoracoscopy in minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum
A. K. Saxena, C. Castellani, and M. E. Höllwarth

Surgery for Acquired Cardiovascular Disease (ACD)

- 1206** Neuroprotective effect of mild hypothermia in patients undergoing coronary artery surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass: Five-year follow-up of a randomized trial ▲
H. J. Nathan, R. Rodriguez, D. Wozny, J.-Y. Dupuis, F. D. Rubens, G. L. Bryson, and G. Wells

(continued on page 2A)

1212 Perioperative outcomes of cardiac surgery in kidney and kidney–pancreas transplant recipients

R. John, K. Lietz, S. Huddleston, A. Matas, K. Liao, S. Shumway, L. Joyce, and R. M. Bolman

1220 Angiographic evidence for reduced graft patency due to competitive flow in composite arterial T-grafts

D. Pevni, I. Hertz, B. Medalion, A. Kramer, Y. Paz, G. Uretzky, and R. Mohr

1226 A classification system for the bicuspid aortic valve from 304 surgical specimens

H.-H. Sievers and C. Schmidtke

1234 Influence of completely supra-annular placement of bioprostheses on exercise hemodynamics in patients with a small aortic annulus

I. M. Wagner, W. B. Eichinger, S. Bleiziffer, F. Botzenhardt, I. Gebauer, R. Guenzinger, R. Bauernschmitt, and R. Lange

1242 Coronary artery bypass graft surgery—care globalization: The impact of national care on fatal and nonfatal outcome

E. Ott, C. D. Mazer, I. C. Tudor, L. Shore-Lesserson, S. A. Snyder-Ramos, B. A. Finegan, P. Möhnle, C. B. Hantler, B. W. Böttiger, R. D. Latimer, W. S. Browner, J. Levin, and D. T. Mangano, for the Multicenter Study of Perioperative Ischemia Research Group and the Ischemia Research and Education Foundation

1252 Selective arterialization of a cardiac vein in a model of cardiac microangiopathy and macroangiopathy in sheep

M. E. Resetar, C. Ullmann, P. Broeske, K. Ludwig-Schindler, N. K. Doll, A. Salameh, S. Dhein, and F. W. Mohr

1257 Comparison of recovery after mitral valve repair and replacement

L. Zhao, P. Kolm, M. A. Borger, Z. Zhang, C. Lewis, G. Anderson, C. T. Jurkovitz, A. M. Borkon, R. H. Lyles, and W. S. Weintraub

Evolving Technology (ET)

1264 Significant reduction in annuloplasty operative time with the use of nitinol clips in robotically assisted mitral valve repair

R. C. Cook, L. W. Nifong, J. E. Enterkin, P. J. Charland, C. C. Reade, A. P. Kypson, S. Masroor, and W. R. Chitwood, Jr

1268 Autologous fibrin-coated small-caliber vascular prostheses improve antithrombogenicity by reducing immunologic response

T. Hasegawa, K. Okada, Y. Takano, Y. Hiraishi, and Y. Okita

1277 Have we gone too far? Endovascular stent-graft repair of aortobronchial fistulas

G. H. Wheatley III, A. Nunez, O. Preventza, V. G. Ramaiah, J. A. Rodriguez-Lopez, J. Williams, D. Olsen, and E. B. Diethrich

Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)

1286 Rechannelling of total anomalous pulmonary venous connection with or without vertical vein ligation: Results and guidelines for candidate selection

U. K. Chowdhury, K. G. Subramaniam, K. Joshi, S. Varshney, G. Kumar, R. Singh, and P. Venugopal

1295 Optimal timing of the Fontan conversion: Change in the P-wave characteristics precedes the onset of atrial tachyarrhythmias in patients with atriopulmonary connection

M. Koh, T. Yagihara, H. Uemura, K. Kagisaki, I. Hagino, T. Ishizaka, and S. Kitamura

1303 Results of the 1.5-ventricle repair for Ebstein anomaly and the failing right ventricle

L. G. Quinonez, J. A. Dearani, F. J. Puga, P. W. O'Leary, D. J. Driscoll, H. M. Connolly, and G. K. Danielson

(continued on page 4A)

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1311 Intermediate-term results of repair for aortic, neo-aortic, and truncal valve insufficiency in children

J. A. Hawkins, P. C. Kouretas, R. Holubkov, R. V. Williams, L. Y. Tani, J. T. Su, L. M. Lambert, C. R. Mart, M. D. Puchalski, and L. L. Minich

1318 Outcomes of definitive surgical repair for congenitally corrected transposition of the great arteries or double outlet right ventricle with discordant atrioventricular connections: Risk analyses in 189 patients

T. Shin'oka, H. Kurosawa, Y. Imai, M. Aoki, M. Ishiyama, T. Sakamoto, S. Miyamoto, K. Hobo, and Y. Ichihara

1329 Early repair of hemitruncus: Excellent early and late outcomes

M. Nathan, D. Rimmer, G. Piercey, P. J. del Nido, J. E. Mayer, E. A. Bacha, and F. A. Pigula

1336 Right ventricular outflow tract reconstruction with a polytetrafluoroethylene monocusp valve: A twelve-year experience

J. W. Brown, M. Ruzmetov, P. Vijay, M. D. Rodefeld, and M. W. Turrentine

1344 Patient characteristics are important determinants of neurodevelopmental outcome at one year of age after neonatal and infant cardiac surgery

J. W. Gaynor, G. Wernovsky, G. P. Jarvik, J. Bernbaum, M. Gerdes, E. Zackai, A. S. Nord, R. R. Clancy, S. C. Nicolson, and T. L. Spray

Cardiothoracic Transplantation (TX)

1354 Life-supporting function of genetically modified swine lungs in baboons

B.-N. H. Nguyen, A. M. Azimzadeh, T. Zhang, G. Wu, H.-J. Shuurman, D. H. Sachs, D. Ayares, J. S. Allan, and R. N. Pierson III

Brief Communications

1364 Delayed hemolytic transfusion reaction by a Kidd antibody after heart surgery: Case report and review of the literature

V. Kazakou, A. Kousoulakou, and E. Melissari

1365 Sternal tuberculosis after sternotomy for coronary artery bypass surgery: A case report and review of the literature

K. Gopal, A. Raj, M. R. Rajesh, S. K. Prabhu, and J. Geothe

1367 Allograft carotid artery as a systemic-to-pulmonary conduit

B. J. Evans and S. Westaby

1368 Unusual systemic venous return with absence of superior caval veins

P. Ou, G. Calcagni, D. Marini, J. Le Bidois, P. Gallo, F. Brunelle, and D. Bonnet

1370 Emergency surgery after failed device closure of the atrial septal defect

I. E. Konstantinov, P. Saxena, L. Friederich, and M. A. J. Newman

1371 Reversal of increased pulmonary arterial pressure associated with systemic venous collaterals after tonsillectomy in a Fontan candidate after the Glenn procedure: Impact of obstructive sleep apnea on Fontan circulation

H. Sawada, Y. Mitani, H. Ohashi, H. Hayakawa, Y. Ikeyama, S. Takabayashi, H. Shimo, K. Maruyama, and Y. Komada

1373 Postconditioning in cardiac surgery for tetralogy of Fallot

W. Luo, B. Li, G. Lin, and R. Huang

1375 Minimally invasive implantation of a cardioverter-defibrillator in a small patient

C. S. Snyder, V. Lucas, T. Young, R. Darling, G. Dalal, and J. E. Davis

1376 Argatroban anticoagulation for renal replacement therapy in patients with heparin-induced thrombocytopenia after cardiovascular surgery

A. Koster, T. Hentschel, T. Groman, H. Kuppe, R. Hetzer, S. Harder, and K.-G. Fischer

1378 Benign bronchoesophageal fistula: Report of four cases

S. Griffo, P. Stassano, G. Iannelli, L. Di Tommaso, M. Cicalese, M. Monaco, and G. Ferrante

(continued on page 6A)

- 1380** Right diaphragmatic eventration associated with dextrocardia, hypoplasia of the right lower pulmonary lobe, and agenesis of the inferior vena cava

E. H. Kabiri, A. Zidane, A. Arsalane, and F. Atoini

- 1382** Giant mediastinal teratoma—bull in a china shop: Management strategies

L. S. Vohra, R. Talwar, M. Mathur, C. V. R. Mohan, N. Chawla, and R. S. Bharathi

- 1384** Necessary resection of the left lower lobe due to systemic arterial supply

R. Jaspers, W. Barendregt, G. Limonard, and F. Visser

- 1385** False-positive mediastinal lymph node activity on positron emission tomographic scan after adjuvant treatment of gynecologic malignancies

B. A. Whitson, S. J. Runge, S. S. Groth, and M. A. Maddaus

- 1387** Lung fibrosis as a potential complication of the hemostatic tissue sealant, biologic glue (Bioglue)

S. Haj-Yahia, T. Mittal, E. Birks, M. Carby, M. Petrou, J. Pepper, G. Dreyfus, and M. Amrani

- 1389** The feasibility of organ procurement at a hospital-independent facility: A working model of efficiency

N. Moazami, O. H. Javadi, D. F. Kappel, J. Wagner, and M. D. Jendrisak

- 1391** Letters to the Editor

- 1399** Events of Interest

- 1401** Announcements

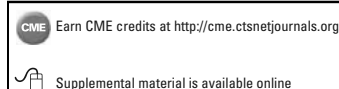
- 35A** Reader Services

- 1256** Change of address

- 1310** Interactive eLearning Activities

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Cover Photograph

Upper left: Intraoperative view of a bicuspid aortic valve with 1 completely developed non-coronary cusp, 2 completely developed commissures (*small arrows*), and 1 raphe extending to the corresponding malformed commissure (*large arrow*) between the malformed left and right coronary cusps. This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 1 (1 raphe).

Upper right: Intraoperative view of a bicuspid aortic valve with 2 raphes, developmental anlagen of 3 cusps, and 1 completely developed and 2 underdeveloped commissures. This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 2 (2 raphes).

Bottom: Intraoperative view of a “purely” bicuspid aortic valve with only 2 equal-sized cusps, sinuses, and 2 commissures (*arrows*) and no raphe (*Left:* before and *Right:* after excision of the valve). This bicuspid aortic valve is classified in the main category as TYPE 0 (no raphe).

Hans-Hinrich Sievers, MD

Reference

Sievers H.-H., Schmidtke C. A classification system for the bicuspid aortic valve from 304 surgical specimens. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2007;133:1226-33.